

Attachment

Forest Plan Amendment No. 26 Clearwater National Forest Clearwater County, Idaho

The purpose of amendment No. 26 of the Clearwater National Forest Plan is to change the water quality objective for the nine following streams: Bar Creek, Cub Creek, Deep Creek, Game Creek, Grasshopper Creek, Ice Creek, Pack Creek, Station Creek, and Sun Creek (see Appendix K, pages K-2 through K-9). The water quality objective for Deception Gulch would also be changed (see Appendix K, page K-9). In addition, the channel types are changed for the following streams: Flat Creek, Squaw Creek, Fisher Creek, Trail Creek, and Rock Creek. These changes are being made due to new information gathered since the Forest Plan was developed. Specific changes are noted in the attached tables.

Currently, the water quality objective for these nine streams is "basic". Fish population surveys (via snorkeling) have shown that these streams have resident populations of westslope cutthroat trout, a Region One sensitive species. The present water quality objective of "basic" does not offer protection of these populations consistent with that of similar adjacent streams. To protect the habitat in these trout streams at a level consistent with habitat of adjacent streams, the water quality objective is being changed from "basic" to "high fishable" for cutthroat trout.

The current water quality standard of "low fish" is below the geomorphic threshold for the Deception Gulch drainage. In order to meet the basic standard, water quality standards must meet the geomorphic threshold. Therefore the water quality standard for Deception Gulch is being changed from "low fishable" to "moderate fishable".

Stream surveys also noted that the initial channel types listed in Appendix K for Flat Creek, Squaw Creek, Fisher Creek, Trail Creek, and Rock Creek were not correct. The need for these changes were identified during the environmental analysis for the Middle Black project.

Since the proposed changes are not significant, adoption of this amendment would not significantly change the forest-wide environmental impacts disclosed in the Clearwater National Forest Plan EIS. The Forest Plan would be amended to read as follows:

Amendment No. 26

Page K-9, List of Specific Stream Systems and Water Quality Criteria, Forest Plan

The following tributary stream to be added under: Cold Springs Creek:

Watershed (& critical reach)	Channel Type	Indicator Species Objective	Water Quality	Allowable Yrs in 30 Exceeding Threshold
Ice Creek	A	Cutthroat Trout	High Fish	10

Page K-9, List of Specific Stream Systems and Water Quality Criteria, Forest Plan

The following change (in bold) would be made to Deception Gulch:

Watershed (& critical reach)	Channel Type	Indicator Species Objective	Water Quality	Allowable Yrs in 30 Exceeding Threshold
Deception Gulch	B	Cutthroat Trout	Moderate Fish	10

Page K-12, List of Specific Stream Systems and Water Quality Criteria, Forest Plan

The following tributary streams (North Fork Clearwater River) to be added under: NF Clearwater R. above Aguaricus:

Watershed (& critical reach)	Channel Type	Indicator Species Objective	Water Quality	Allowable Yrs in 30 Exceeding Threshold
Bar Creek	A	Cutthroat Trout	High Fish	10
Cub Creek	A	Cutthroat Trout	High Fish	10
Deep Creek	A	Cutthroat Trout	High Fish	10
Game Creek	A	Cutthroat Trout	High Fish	10
Grasshopper Creek	A	Cutthroat Trout	High Fish	10
Pack Creek	A	Cutthroat Trout	High Fish	10
Station Creek	B	Cutthroat Trout	High Fish	10

Page K-12 List of Specific Stream Systems and Water Quality Criteria, Forest Plan

The following tributary stream to be added under: Larson Creek:

Watershed (& critical reach)	Channel Type	Indicator Species Objective	Water Quality	Allowable Yrs in 30 Exceeding Threshold
Sun Creek	A	Cutthroat Trout	High Fish	10

Page K-11 List of Specific Stream Systems and Water Quality Criteria, Forest Plan

The following changes to the channel types are noted in bold:

Watershed (& critical reach)	Channel Type
Rock Creek	A
Rock Creek above Mush Point	A

Page K-12 List of Specific Stream Systems and Water Quality Criteria, Forest Plan

The following changes to the channel types are noted in bold:

Watershed (& critical reach)	Channel Type
Flat Creek	A
Squaw Creek	A
Fisher Creek	A
Trail Creek	A

END OF AMENDMENT